Evolving of a Balanced Energy Policy

807. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a discussion on Current and Long Term Energy Challenges for India' held on the 4th June, 1990, under the aegis of the Tata Energy Research Institute at New Delhi, it was observed that if the oil consumption in India continues to increase at the present rate, India's debt burden would become unbearable within 10 years and pose a serious threat to environment;

(b) if so, what were the details of the discussions held; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government for evolving a balanced energy policy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) At a Seminar organised on 4.6.90 jointly by Tata Energy Research Institute and India International Centre on "Current and Long Term Energy Challenges for India", the following recommendations were made:—

— To evolve a flexible, preferably non-governmental, structure for implementing an energy efficient strategy for the country.

— A reversal of our growing dependence on road transport vis-a-vis rail transport and also on private modes of transport.

— The setting up of a high level group to evolve and monitor over all energy policy.

— Switching over from energy intensive methods to less energy intensive methods of production and consumption.

(c) To evolve a balanced energy policy the following steps are envisaged by the Government:—

(i) better demand management so as to encourage more efficient use of energy;

(ii) an effective system of incentives and disincentives backed by legislative mandate for energy conservation, and waste reduction among all users;

(iii) more rational use of power in order to flatten the load curve and to reduce the peak demand for power;

(iv) a pricing policy that reflects relative scarcities of alternative forms of energy and improves viability of investmnet and boost energy conservation; and

(v) measures to reduce the consumption of oil and oil-products, to increase the fuel efficiency of power generation and in road and rail transport; and introduction of more energy efficient production technology.

Provision of Gas for Power Projects in Gujarat

808. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government have requested the Central Government to provide gas for its proposed Pipavav Gas Power Project;

(b) if so, how many such applications are pending from Gujarat for providing gas for power projects; and

(c) what decision the Central Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Application for gas linkage for power project at Kawan, and two projects in Gandhar (one by

NTPC and one by the Gujarat Electricity Board had been received. It has been decided to commit the requisite gas for these projects. Commitment of gas linkage for the Pipavav Project would be contingent on the level of outlays for the oil and gas sector as also the power sector in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Higher Charges for Gas Supplied to Industries in Gujarat

809. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Government and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry have demanded reduction in the prices of gas supplied to industries in that State;

(b) what are the prices charged from industries in Gujarat for supply the gas;

(c) what are the prices charged for supplying gas to the industries in Assam;

(d) whether it is a fact that prices charged in Assam for supplying gas to industries there are much less in comparison to that charged from the industries in Gujarat; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A uniform price of Rs. 1400 per thousand cubic metre of gas is being charged from industries in Gujarat w.e.f. 30-1-87 as per the price fixed by Government of India.

(c) to (e) From 30-1-87, the price being charged for gas in the North-Eastern Region is Rs. 1000/1000 M3 with a provision for discount of upto Rs. 500/1000 M3 (exclusive of royalty, levies etc.). The concessional price of gas in the North-Eastern Region is primarily in view of the lack of demand for gas in the region.

Royalty on Crude oil Produced in Gujarat

810. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to answer to Unstarred Question 747 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether any discussion has recently taken place between his Ministry and Gujarat Government regarding revision of rates of royalty for oil and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of India had taken a decision revising the rates of royalty on crude oil from Rs. 192 per tonne to Rs. 314/- per tonne for the period 1.4.1987 to 31.3.1990 and to Rs. 374/- per tonne for the period 1.4.1990 to 31.3.1993. However, the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested that the entire question of revision of royalty should be referred to a Committee for further examination. The request of Chief Minister of Gujarat is under consideration of the Government.

Mini-cement plants in Karnataka

811. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many mini-cement plants in the small sector have been set up in Karnataka State:

(b) whether it is a fact that all these plants have availed C.R.I. technology: